

Dear Mark,

8/12/84

Often when there are policy/political disputes positions tend to harden and thinking focuses on maintaining the previously decided position. I fear this may have become true of the ACLU's position on exempting CIA from FOIA, which I am certain will be the actual effect of the pending ~~bill~~ legislation. Absent some truly compelling reason I again strongly urge seeking postponement for at the very least a full exploration of the CIA's actual record and real needs.

I raise several matters I do not recall reading about in anything I've seen in my enclosed letter to David Burnham.

This exemption, atop Reagan's assigning of domestic responsibilities, can be a real step toward a police state condition.

My experience is that the CIA has deliberately created most of its FOIA costs and delays, always with what you now support in mind.

The FBI has the same kinds of phony statistics.

If you have any interest in the affidavit I refer to, Jim Lesar has it. I'll have to take what I mail into town to make the mail so I've little time for copying right now.

Assuming that the CIA did not swear falsely in that case, current, and that the document it had withheld was really "predecisional" information, that to-be-exempt record discloses how the CIA at the least underinforms those allegedly to make decisions, deceives and misleads them, and claimed 1,3 and 5 for what was public domain, ~~the~~ in the Wash. Post and the Anderson column and by its own disclosures.

In fact, the specific record about which it swore to all these lies had been released long ago by it to Borosages. With unjustifiable withholdings in it.

And in my experience this is not at all uncommon.


You also are going to exempt it from exposure of all its dirty works, past, present and future and, I believe, encourage them to more of it.

Operational or not, these are not now exempt and disclosure has been made.

And absent amending more can be expected, with an effort to compel it.

Please try to think about all of this separately, without the considerations that led to your position.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg